

REMARKS

In the Office Action of December 31, 2003, Claims 46-55 were allowed.

Claim 61 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

By this Amendment, Claim 56 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 61. Claim 56, as amended, now further recites a membrane wherein less of said particulate is disposed near said skin than is disposed in the interior of said membrane. Claim 61, as a result, has now been cancelled. It is believed that for the reasons set forth in the Office Action, Claim 56 and its dependent claims are now allowable.

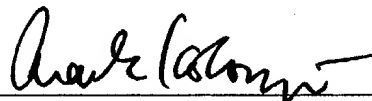
Claim 66 has been cancelled.

New Claims 67-70 have been added. Independent Claim 67 differs from independent Claim 46 in that it recites a polymeric support wherein at least one of the first or second sides comprises the recited polymeric coating. Claim 67, like the other independent claims, also recites a membrane wherein less of said particulate is disposed near said skin and is disposed in the interior of said membrane. Claims 68-70 depend from

Claim 67. For the reasons set forth in the Office Action, it is believed that Claims 67-70 are likewise allowable.

Favorable consideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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